

[Table 3-1]**SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE SENATE**

From 1789 to 1933 presidential and congressional terms began on March 4, although the Congress generally did not meet until the first Monday in December. When a new president was to take office, his predecessor would call the Senate into special session to confirm nominations for the cabinet and other significant posts, and to consent to the ratification of treaties. Incumbent presidents also called special sessions from time to time for the same reasons. These special sessions were convened by presidential proclamation.

<u>Congress</u>	<u>Date of Proclamation</u>	<u>Dates Convened and Adjourned</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>President</u>
2nd	March 1, 1791	March 4, 1791*	Nominations	Washington
3rd	March 1, 1793	March 4, 1793*	Nominations	Washington
4th	March 3, 1795	June 8-26, 1795	Jay Treaty	Washington
5th	March 1, 1797	March 4, 1797*	Nominations	Adams
5th	July 16, 1798	July 17-19, 1798	Nominations	Adams
7th	Jan. 30, 1801	March 4-5, 1801	Nominations	Jefferson
11th	Dec. 30, 1808	March 4-7, 1809	Nominations	Madison
15th	Jan. 1, 1817	March 4-6, 1817	Nominations	Monroe
19th	Jan. 19, 1825	March 4-9, 1825	Nominations	Adams
21st	Jan. 12, 1829	March 4-17, 1829	Nominations	Jackson
25th	Dec. 20, 1836	March 4-10, 1837	Nominations	Van Buren
27th	Jan. 6, 1841	March 4-15, 1841	Nominations	Harrison
29th	Jan. 8, 1845	March 4-20, 1845	Nominations	Polk

<u>Congress</u>	<u>Date of President</u>	<u>Dates Proclamation Adjourned</u>	<u>Convened and</u>	<u>Reason</u>
31st	Jan. 2, 1849	March 5-23, 1849	Nominations	Taylor
32nd	March 3, 1851	March 4-13, 1851	Nominations	Fillmore
33rd	Feb. 25, 1853	March 4-Apr. 11, 1853	Nominations	Pierce
35th	Feb. 16, 1857	March 4-14, 1857	Nominations	Buchanan
35th	June 14, 1858	June 15-16, 1858	Nominations	Buchanan
36th	Feb. 26, 1859	March 4-10, 1859	Nominations	Buchanan
36th	June 25, 1860	June 26-28, 1860	Treaties	Buchanan
37th	Feb. 11, 1861	March 4-28, 1861	Nominations	Lincoln
38th	Feb. 28, 1863	March 4-14, 1863	Nominations	Lincoln
39th	Feb. 17, 1865	March 4-11, 1865	Nominations	Lincoln
40th	March 30, 1867	April 1-20, 1867	Nominations	Johnson
41st	April 8, 1869	April 12-22, 1869	Nominations	Grant
42nd	April 20, 1871	May 10-27, 1871	Washington Treaty	Grant
43rd	Feb. 21, 1873	March 4-26, 1873	Nominations	Grant
44th	Feb. 17, 1875	March 5-24, 1875	Nominations	Grant
45th	March 2, 1877	March 5-17, 1877	Nominations	Hayes
47th	Feb. 28, 1881	March 4-May 20, 1881	Nominations	Garfield

<u>Congress</u>	<u>Date of President</u>	<u>Dates Proclamation Adjourned</u>	<u>Convened and</u>	<u>Reason</u>
47th	Sept. 23, 1881	October 10-29, 1881	Nominations	Arthur
49th	Feb. 27, 1885	March 4-Apr. 2, 1885	Nominations	Cleveland
51st	Feb. 26, 1889	March 4-Apr. 2, 1889	Nominations	Harrison
53rd	Feb. 25, 1893	March 4-Apr. 15, 1893	Nominations	Cleveland
55th	Feb. 24, 1897	March 4-10, 1897	Nominations	McKinley
57th	Feb. 23, 1901	March 4-9, 1901	Nominations	McKinley
58th	March 2, 1903	March 5-19, 1903	Nominations	Roosevelt
59th	Feb. 23, 1905	March 4-18, 1905	Nominations	Roosevelt
61st	Feb. 27, 1909	March 4-6, 1909	Nominations	Taft
63rd	Feb. 13, 1913	March 4-17, 1913	Nominations	Wilson
65th	Feb. 23, 1917	March 5-16, 1917	Nominations	Wilson
67th	Feb. 3, 1921	March 4-15, 1921	Nominations	Harding
69th	Feb. 14, 1925	March 4-18, 1925	Nominations	Coolidge
71st	Feb. 11, 1929	March 4-5, 1929	Nominations	Hoover
71st	July 3, 1930	July 7-21, 1930	Naval Arms Treaty	Hoover
73rd	Feb. 14, 1933	March 4-6, 1933	Nominations	Roosevelt

TOTAL = 46

<u>Congress</u>	Date of President	Dates Proclamation Adjourned	<u>Convened and</u>	<u>Reason</u>
------------------------	------------------------------	---	----------------------------	----------------------

*One day only

Source: U.S., Congress, Senate, *Senate Journal*

**Senate Historical Office
2004**